

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-16 will be pending in the application.

The Examiner has objected to claims 9 and 14 under 35 USC §112 as having insufficient antecedent basis. By the amendments made herein, the phrase "the groove" has been replaced with "a groove" in claim 9. Also, the terms "the idle roller rotation shaft" and "the idle roller rotation shaft holder" in claim 14 have been replaced with the phrases "an idle roller rotation shaft" and "an idle roller rotation shaft holder," respectively. Applicants believe these amendments overcome the objection. Furthermore, no change in claim scope is intended by these amendments, and applicants believe the claims remain entitled to the full range of equivalents to which they would have been entitled prior to the amendment.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-8, 10-11, and 14 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,915,449 to Johnson et al. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of Johnson and traverse the rejection. Johnson is directed to a device for transporting magnetic cards in an electronic typewriter system. The Johnson mechanism is adapted to move cards in a reversible manner, and the "pivot unit" of Johnson changes its angle of inclination based on the direction of transport, *not* based on the type of paper being transported, as recited in independent claims 1 and 8 of the present invention. As described beginning at page 9, line 4 and continuing through page 10, line 15 of the instant application, the idle roller angle of inclination adjusts to a small or large relative angle based on the *type of paper* transported through the device. As described lighter weight

paper results in more repulsive force being transmitted to the elastic member of the pivot unit, and the idle roller is rotated to a smaller inclination angle (such as 5 degrees). Heavier weight paper results in less repulsive force being transmitted to the elastic member of the pivot unit, and the idle roller is rotated to a larger inclination angle (such as 8 degrees). As a result, the inclination angle of the idle roller depends on the *type of paper* transported. Johnson, by contrast, has no mechanism to alter the inclination angle of the idle roller based on the type of paper. Rather, Johnson alters the inclination angle via a solenoid 67 that fires when the transport motor is reversed (Col. 4, Lines 44-55). Thus, the Johnson device urges the card against a guide bar 36 in both the forward and reverse transport directions. The Johnson device is incapable of altering the angle of inclination based on the *type of paper*. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1, and should be allowed for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,053,494 to Baskette et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Baskette fails to teach a system for setting the angle of inclination of an idle roller based on a *type of paper*. Baskette, like Johnson, provides a means of setting an inclination angle of an idle roller. Baskette teaches a rack and pinion system for rotating the inclination angle of two idle rollers simultaneously. The rack and pinion are moved by a motor (Col 5, Lines 38-51). However, the Baskette system adjusts the inclination angle based on which *job* papers belong to rather than on a *type* of paper (Col 2, Lines 23-45), as claimed in the present invention. As described above, embodiments of the present invention include a pivot

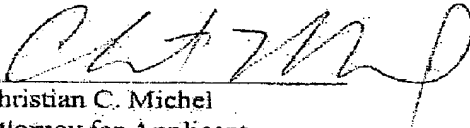
unit adapted to *set the inclination angle of the idle roller within a predetermined range according to a type of the paper*. Thus, transport of light weight papers results in a small inclination angle of the idle roller, while transport of heavy weight papers results in a large inclination angle of the idle roller. Because embodiments of the invention have this feature, heavy weight papers are moved along side wall guide 13 consistently due to the higher inclination angle, while light weight papers which do not require a higher inclination angle to consistently move to the side wall guide 13 avoid damage due to the low inclination angle. Independent claims 1 and 8 both require "a pivot unit adapted to set the inclination angle of the idle roller within a predetermined range according to a type of the paper." Baskette lacks this element of both claims. Accordingly, applicants request withdrawal of this rejection. Claims 2 and 9 both depend from claims 1 and 8. Thus, claims 2 and 9 should also be allowed.

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baskette et al. as applied to claim 9 in view of Johnson et al. However, because neither Baskette et al. or Johnson et al. make up for the deficiencies discussed above with regard to independent claim 8, and because claims 12 and 13 both depend from claim 8, claims 12 and 13 should be allowed for the same reasons discussed above. Accordingly, applicants request allowance of claims 12 and 13.

New claims 15 and 16 recite a paper registration apparatus comprising a pivot unit adapted to set the inclination angle of the idle roller within a predetermined range according to a *physical characteristic* of the paper. Claim 16 further specifies that the physical characteristic is *weight*. Neither Johnson nor Baskette teach or suggest such a system. Accordingly, applicants request allowance of claims 15 and 16.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,


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